

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 60th LEGISLATURE - SPECIAL SESSION

COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

Call to Order: By Chairman Bob Lake, on May 11, 2007 at 4:00 P.M., in Room 317 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Jon Sonju, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Norma Bixby (D)
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)
Rep. Edward Hilbert (R)
Rep. Carol Lambert (R)
Rep. Gary MacLaren (R)
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)
Rep. Bill Nooney (R)
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)
Rep. John (Jack) W. Ross (R)
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)

Members Excused: Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch
Nancy Kraft, Committee Secretary

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 7, 5/10/2007; HB 8, 5/11/2007
Executive Action: HB 7; HB 8

HEARING ON HB 7

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:08 Rep. Roger Koopman (R), HD 70, opened the hearing on HB 7, Distribute budget surplus through property tax reductions.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

00:11:20 Rep. Koopman

HEARING ON HB 8

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:12:03 Rep. Rick Jore (C), HD 12, opened the hearing on HB 8, Reduce business equipment tax annually until phased out.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:16:13 Ellen Engsted, Montana Wood Products' Association

00:18:18 Jon Bennion, Montana Chamber of Commerce

00:20:10 Ronda Wiggers, Great Falls and Helena Chambers of Commerce

00:21:42 Gail Abercrombie, Montana Contractors' Association

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: Ronda Wiggers for County Treasurers

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:22:37 Rep. Lambert

00:22:59 Rep. Jore

00:23:32 Rep. Ross
00:24:20 Mr. Martin
00:26:27 Rep. Erickson
00:26:42 Rep. Jore

Closing by Sponsor:

00:27:00 Rep. Jore
00:29:05 Rep. Lake

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 7

00:30:00 **Motion:** Rep. Butcher moved that HB 7 **DO PASS**.
00:30:14 **Substitute Motion/Vote:** Rep. Cohenour made a
substitute motion that HB 7 **BE TABLED**. Substitute
motion failed 8-10 by roll call vote with Reps. Bixby,
Cohenour, Erickson, Grinde, Hamilton, Jopek, McAlpin,
and Pomnichowski voting aye. Reps. Grinde and Jopek
voted by proxy.

Discussion:

00:31:39 Rep Erickson
00:34:17 Rep. MacLaren
00:35:05 Rep. Lake
00:35:16 Rep. Butcher
00:36:39 Rep. Lake

00:37:08 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-8 by roll call vote with Reps.
Bixby, Cohenour, Erickson, Grinde, Hamilton, Jopek,
McAlpin, and Pomnichowski voting no. Reps. Grinde and
Jopek voted by proxy.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 8

00:38:12 **Motion:** Rep. Butcher moved that HB 8 **DO PASS**.

Discussion:

00:38:26 Rep. Erickson

00:39:06 **Motion/Vote:** Rep. Sonju moved that HB 8 **BE AMENDED**.
Motion carried 11-7 by voice vote with Reps. Bixby,
Cohenour, Erickson, Grinde, Hamilton, Jopek, and

McAlpin voting no. Reps. Grinde and Jopek voted by proxy.

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah02a01)

Discussion:

00:39:23 Mr. Martin

00:41:14 **Motion:** Rep. Sonju moved that HB 8 **DO PASS AS AMENDED.**

Discussion:

00:41:26 Rep. MacLaren

00:42:34 **Vote:** Motion carried 11-7 by roll call vote with Reps. Bixby, Cohenour, Erickson, Grinde, Hamilton, Jopek, and McAlpin voting no. Reps. Grinde and Jopek voted by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

00:42:43 Adjournment: 4:50 P.M.

REP. BOB LAKE, Chairman

Nancy Kraft, Secretary

BL/nk

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([tah02aad.pdf](#))